



The last Sunday of the year we have traditionally had our church "closed" for volunteers and staff. Use this page today to worship from home with items from this past series!

Hope: Begin by writing out your hopes for the upcoming year and offer a prayer to God for these.

Worship to this song:

Gratitude by Brandon Lake

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQdfs5S6jyA>

READ the following from our community:

- I have never been able to feel as much peace as I do now, especially in these past five years of my life. I believe it's related to the spiritual direction I'm following and to choosing to open my heart and follow Jesus words. Even though the steps are small, they are still reflecting directly on my peace and on the people around me.
- I am not at peace due to both internal and external factors but i'm making incremental progress toward peace. My daily prayer is "Lord, help me be the person you created/want me to be, and Lord help me to trust you with all of my life (and not to be scared to pray that)."

Hopes:

There was a season when I stood in the middle of uncertainty, not knowing how things would unfold, yet choosing every day to trust God. The process was long, and the waiting was sometimes heavy, but God covered her with a peace that didn't make sense to the natural mind. Instead of worrying, she worshiped.
Instead of doubting, she declared God's Word.
Instead of rushing the process, she rested in His timing.

She walked through that season with grace because she knew that God is not a man who lies and that every promise spoken over her life would come to pass. Even when she couldn't see movement, God was working behind the scenes. Even when doors seemed slow to open, He was preparing the exact blessing she needed.

Read the following prayer:

When the world expects sadness,
help us, Creator of Light, to look for pockets of joy.
When the world is overwhelmed by darkness,
give us eyes to see little delights.
When the world is caught up in sensationalism,
help us speak of the hidden wonders we've discovered,
holding them up for others to see.

The sacred stillness of the early morning,
a quiet moment in the sun,
small children laughing on scooters,
trees bursting into bloom and lillies opening at the corner bodega.
These small joys reveal the truth of the world we live in.

No, there is not peace everywhere
and all pain has not been removed.
But there are still people returning home,
voices that pray,
moments of forgiveness,
signs of hope.
We don't have to wait until all is well
to celebrate the glimpses of your Kingdom at hand.

Let us not deny sadness,
but transform it into fertile soil for more joy.
Let us not deny the darkness,
but choose to live in the light.
Cynics seek darkness wherever they go,
but joy is the mark of the people of God.

Help us discipline ourselves to choose joy
for the reward is joy itself.
Help us renew our minds until they default to joy and not fear,
for there is so much to frighten us.
Help us believe that the Light can be trusted,
for there is so much darkness to mislead us.

Jesus, you are both the Man of Sorrows and the Man of Complete Joy,
help us to hold both sorrow and joy in the ways you've shown us.
Help us to remain in your love
so that your joy may be in us
and our joy may be complete.
Amen.

Reflect where God has been present in 2025:



Worship to this song:

How He Loves by John Mark McMillian

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLvgqqZvLZk>

**Close with a prayer to close out this year, for
yourself, family, our church, our world.**